THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Monday, the 17th March 1958

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at half past nine of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAU) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER : According to rule 22 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the first hour of every sitting shall, unless the House unanimously resolves otherwise, be available for the asking and answering of questions. To-day we are meeting at 9-30 a.m. Therefore, one hour at least, that is, till 10-30 a.m., must be devoted to questions and answers. The time allotted for the discussion of the Demand to-day will then be reduced. Therefore, the House must either agree to postpone these questions to some other day or must agree to extend the time allotted for the discussion of the Demand till 2-30 p.m. I leave it to the House to come to a decision.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, the question can be disposed of in as little a time as possible.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot guarantee that. If hon. Members want to put supplementary questions, I cannot prevent them from doing so. These questions can be postponed to some other day, if agreed to.

SRI P. G. KARUTHIRUMAN : They may be postponed to some other day, Sir.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : The question-hour need not be cut short, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That means the House will be sitting till 2-30 p.m.

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : We may sit, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall try to finish the questions early. The House will have to sit for four hours afterwards.

The Hon. the Minister for Local Administration has requested that her questions may be taken up first and I have agreed to it.

National Highways

* 347-B *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to repair the National Highways in the City of Madras?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : There are no roads in the City of Madras which are classed as National Highways. Repairs to the roads in the City of Madras are taken up

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

by the Corporation of Madras as and when necessary throughout the year.

SRI A. A. RASHEED : Is it not a fact that the Corporation is unable to repair the roads for want of necessary funds?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Prior to 1954–55, grants to the extent of Rs. 44,580 were being sanctioned annually from State funds to the Corporation of Madras towards the maintenance of certain roads and a number of bridges and culverts. The Government have also sanctioned an ex-gratia grant of Rupees five lakhs per annum with effect from 1954–55 for maintenance of roads. Again, a full grant in 1956–57 of Rs. 1,32,300 was sanctioned to the Corporation for superior surfacing G.S.T. Road (Mount Road). Still, more funds were asked for. But as funds are not available at the moment, the amount has not been sanctioned.

SRI K. VINAYAKAM : Does not the road leading from Fort St. George to Tiruchirappalli passing through Saidapett fall under the National Highways? If not, who undertakes the repairs to the Marmolong Bridge at Saidapet which is in a very dilapidated condition and which cannot now stand any heavy traffic that it has been accustomed to?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : A separate question may be put.

Village panchayat

* 347-C *Q.*—SRI G. VAGHEESAM PILLAI (on behalf of Sri A. Vedarathnam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received recently any representation from the villagers of Ovarur, Tiruthuraipundi taluk, for constituting a panchayat for their village; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Regional Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Tanjore, will take action for the constitution of a separate panchayat for Ovarur village as early as possible.

SRI T. KARIA GOUNDER : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இதை பிரிக்கக்கூடாது என்று ஏதாவது மகஜர்கள் வந்திருக்கிறதா ?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : அப்படி என்னிடம் தகவல் இல்லை.

Vellore Municipality

* 347-E *Q.*—SRI S. M. ANNAMALAI (on behalf of Sri M. P. Sarathi) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been any misappropriation of funds in the Vellore Municipality;